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REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicant amends claim 1.

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohira (JP 7-131209) in view of Okada et al. (EP 0 903 801). And claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Maeda et al. (U.S. 3,836,874) in view of Ohira and Okada et al. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections

Claim 1 has been amended to recite:

"A nonreciprocal circuit device comprising:
a plurality of central conductors overlappingly intersecting with each other and disposed on a magnetic member for receiving a DC magnetic field; and
a coiled-shaped inductor connected at its ends to at least one portion section of said central conductors and to a signal input/output terminal, respectively; wherein
said magnetic member has a substantially rectangular shape with four edge surfaces;
a longitudinal axis of said inductor is parallel to a surface of said magnetic member;
said surface of said magnetic member is parallel to a direction of said DC magnetic field; and
a magnetic flux produced by said inductor passes in a direction that is perpendicular to the direction of said DC magnetic field with respect to said magnetic member." (Emphasis added)

By arranging the inductor such that the longitudinal axis of the inductor is parallel to a surface of the magnetic member, and such that the magnetic flux produced by the inductor passes in a direction that is perpendicular to the direction of the DC magnetic field with respect to the magnetic member, the inductance of the inductor is greatly increased and the size of the nonreciprocal circuit device is greatly reduced as compared with conventional nonreciprocal circuit devices (see, for example, the paragraph bridging pages 12-13 and the first full paragraph on page 13 of the present application).

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In contrast, Ohira and Maeda et al. fail to teach or suggest anything at all about the orientation of the magnetic flux of an inductor with respect to the DC magnetic field or the magnetic member, and certainly fail to teach "a longitudinal axis of said inductor is parallel to a surface of said magnetic member," "said surface of said magnetic member is parallel to a direction of said DC magnetic field" and "a magnetic flux produced by said inductor passes in a direction that is perpendicular to the direction of said DC magnetic field with respect to said magnetic member" as recited in the present claimed invention.

Okada et al. is relied upon merely to teach a rectangular magnetic member. Okada et al. fails to teach or suggest any coil-shaped inductor, and certainly fails to teach or suggest an inductor which is arranged such that "a magnetic flux produced by said inductor passes in a direction that is perpendicular to the direction of said DC magnetic field with respect to said magnetic member" as recited in the present claimed invention. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Okada et al. fails to cure the deficiencies of Ohira and Maeda et al. described above.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Ohira, Maeda et al. and Okada et al., applied individually or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the unique combination and arrangement of elements recited in claim 1 of the present application.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable. Claims 2-5 depend upon claim 1, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

In view of the foregoing Remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are respectfully solicited.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,



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